Patent Case No.: 58006US005

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE.

First Named Inventor: YAMAUCHI, TAKAYA

Application No.: 10/522003 Group Art Unit: 2874

Confirmation No.: 5085

Filed: January 14, 2005 Examiner: Petkovsek, Daniel J.

Title: OPTICAL FIBER MECHANICAL SPLICE WITH STRAIN RELIEF MECHANISM

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the outstanding Office Action, dated March 9, 2006, in the aboveidentified application.

This Amendment is believed to be timely submitted. It is believed that no fee is due;

however, in the event a fee is required, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 13-3723.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Abstract begin on page 6 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 8 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.

An Appendix including replacement drawing sheets is attached following page 13 of this paper.